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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/743,338

12/23/2003

Jun Fujimoto

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EXAMINER

TORIMIRO, ADETOKUNBO OLUSEGUN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3709

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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3 MONTHS

12/20/2006

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3). Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date :08/10/2004, 09/13/2004, 11/03/2004.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/743,338

Applicant(s)

FUJIMOTO, JUN

Examiner

Adetokunbo O. Torimiro

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date See Continuation Sheet.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

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## DETAILED ACTION

### *Drawings*

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: “44”, “47”, “48”, and “49”.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

### *Specification*

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: the reference number “22” in line 4 of par. [0030] is describing more than one part in the drawing.

Appropriate correction is required.

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***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 8 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Re claim 8: the limitation, “the value of” in line 10 lacks clear antecedent basis. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Re claim 16: the limitation, “the value of” in line 10 lacks clear antecedent basis. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Appropriate correction is required.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –  
(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1-3, 6-8, and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Raven et al (US 5,429,361).

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Re claim 1: Raven et al disclose a gaming machine comprising a storage medium / *magnetic/smart card*, a game medium providing device for providing a game medium for a game stored in the storage medium (see **fig. 3; col.11, lines 30-31**), and a value recording device for recording a value of the game medium at a predetermined rate on the storage medium based on a result of the game (see **col.11, lines 11-16**).

Re claim 2: Raven et al disclose the gaming machine wherein the game medium is utilized in a plurality of gaming machines including the gaming machine (see **col.1, lines 59-63**), wherein types and minimum bets of the gaming machines differ between at least two of the gaming machines and wherein the storage medium is utilized in each of the gaming machines (see **col.10, lines 65-68**).

Re claim 3: Raven et al disclose the gaming machine further comprising a storage medium / *magnetic/smart card* issuing device for issuing the storage medium / *magnetic/smart card* (see **col.11, lines 27-29**), wherein the storage medium / *magnetic/smart card* is utilized in a plurality of gaming machines including the gaming machine (see **col.10, lines 65-68**).

Re claim 6: Raven et al disclose a gaming machine comprising a storage medium / *magnetic/smart card*, game medium providing means for providing a game medium for a game stored in the storage medium (see **fig. 3; col.11, lines 30-31**), and value recording device for recording a value of the game medium at a predetermined rate on the storage

medium based on a result of the game (see col.11, lines 11-16). Claim 6 invokes 35 USC 112 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph.

Re claim 7: Raven et al disclose a gaming machine comprising a game medium providing device for providing a game medium for a game stored in the storage medium / *magnetic/smart card* capable of being received by the gaming machine (see fig. 3; col.11, lines 30-31), and a value recording device for recording a value of the game medium at a predetermined rate on the storage medium based on a result of the game (see col.11, lines 11-16).

Re claim 8: Raven et al disclose a gaming system comprising a storage medium / *magnetic/smart card*, and a plurality of gaming machines each of which utilizes the storage medium / *magnetic/smart card* (see col.1, lines 59-63), wherein types and minimum bets of the gaming machines differ between at least two of the gaming machines (see col.10, lines 65-68), wherein each of the gaming machines comprises a game medium providing device for providing a game medium for a game stored in the storage medium / *magnetic/smart card* (see fig. 3; col.11, lines 30-31), a value recording device for recording a value of the game medium at a predetermined rate on the storage medium based on a result of the game (see col.11, lines 11-16).

Re claim 15: Raven et al teaches the gaming system further comprising a host computer / *main computer* (see col.2, lines 42-45), wherein the host computer comprises a value

obtaining device for obtaining the value and the ID code / *ID number* from the storage medium issuing device and at least one of the gaming machines, and wherein the host computer comprises a storage device / *MASTERCOM* for storing the value for the ID code / *ID number* (see col.11, lines 30-33).

Re claim 16: Raven et al disclose a gaming system comprising a storage medium / *magnetic/smart card*, and a plurality of gaming machines each of which utilizes the storage medium / *magnetic/smart card* (see col.1, lines 59-63), wherein types and minimum bets of the gaming machines differ between at least two of the gaming machines (see col.10, lines 65-68), wherein each of the gaming machines comprises game medium providing means for providing a game medium for a game stored in the storage medium / *magnetic/smart card* (see fig. 3; col.11, lines 30-31), value recording device for recording a value of the game medium at a predetermined rate on the storage medium based on a result of the game (see col.11, lines 11-16). **Claim 16 invokes 35 USC 112 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph.**

Re claim 17: Raven et al disclose a gaming system comprising a plurality of gaming machines each of which utilizes the storage medium / *magnetic/smart card* capable of being received by the gaming machines (see col.1, lines 59-63), wherein types and minimum bets of the gaming machines differ between at least two of the gaming machines (see col.10, lines 65-68), wherein each of the gaming machines comprises a game medium providing device for providing a game medium for a game stored in the



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storage medium / *magnetic/smart card* (see fig. 3; col.11, lines 30-31), a value recording device for recording a value of the game medium at a predetermined rate on the storage medium based on a result of the game (see col.11, lines 11-16).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 4, 5, 9-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Raven et al (US 5,429,361) in view of Dickinson et al (US 5,265,874). The teachings of Raven et al have been discussed above.

Re claim 4: Raven et al teach the gaming machine comprising the game medium.

However, Raven et al fails to teach the gaming machine further comprising a game medium converting device for converting at least a portion of the value so as to pay out a physical game medium.

Dickinson et al teaches the gaming machine further comprising a game medium converting device / *validation terminal* for converting at least a portion of the value so as to pay out a physical game medium / *cash* (see col.2, lines 34-41).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time

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the invention was made to include a game medium converting device in the gaming machine so that physical game medium can be obtained upon completion of the game thereby increasing the enjoyment and excitement of the game.

Re claim 5: Raven et al teach the gaming machine comprising the game medium.

However, Raven et al fails to teach the gaming machine further comprising a game medium payout device for paying out at least a portion of the value as a physical game medium.

Dickinson et al teaches the gaming machine further comprising a game medium payout device / *validation terminal* for paying out at least a portion of the value as a physical game medium / *cash* (see col.2, lines 39-42).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a game medium payout device in the gaming machine so that physical game medium can be obtained upon completion of the game thereby increasing the enjoyment and excitement of the game.

Re claim 9: Raven et al teaches the gaming system wherein each of the gaming machines has a storage medium issuing device comprising an issuing device for issuing the storage medium / *magnetic/smart card* which stores the value (see col.11, lines 27-29).

However, Raven et al fails to teach the gaming system wherein each of the gaming machines has a storage medium issuing device comprising a value inputting device for recording a value based on a physical game medium inserted in at least one of the gaming machines.

Dickinson et al teaches the gaming system wherein each of the gaming machines has a

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storage medium issuing device comprising a value inputting device / *validation terminal* for recording a value based on a physical game medium / *cash* inserted in at least one of the gaming machines (see col.2, lines 1-8).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a value inputting device in the gaming machine so that need for carrying around of cash and need for exchange of coins, chips, or tokens will be eliminated thereby increasing the enjoyment of the game to the player, and reducing cost of operating game machine to the gaming establishment.

Re claim 10: Raven et al teaches the gaming system further comprising a storage medium issuing device comprising an issuing device for issuing the storage medium / *magnetic/smart card* which stores the value (see col.11, lines 27-29).

However, Raven et al fails to teach the gaming system further comprising a storage medium issuing device comprising a value inputting device for recording a value based on a physical game medium inserted in at least one of the gaming machines.

Dickinson et al teaches the gaming system further comprising a storage medium issuing device comprising a value inputting device / *validation terminal* for recording a value based on a physical game medium / *cash* inserted in at least one of the gaming machines (see col.2, lines 1-8).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a value inputting device in the gaming machine so that need for carrying around of cash and need for exchange of coins, chips, or tokens will be

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eliminated thereby increasing the enjoyment of the game to the player, and reducing cost of operating game machine to the gaming establishment.

Re claim 11: Raven et al teach the gaming system wherein each of the gaming machine comprises the game medium.

However, Raven et al fails to teach the gaming machines further comprising a game medium converting device for converting at least a portion of the value so as to pay out a physical game medium.

Dickinson et al teaches the gaming machines further comprising a game medium converting device / *validation terminal* for converting at least a portion of the value so as to pay out a physical game medium / *cash* (see col.2, lines 34-41).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a game medium converting device in the gaming machine of the gaming system so that physical game medium can be obtained upon completion of the game thereby increasing the enjoyment and excitement of the game.

Re claim 12: Raven et al teach the gaming system wherein each of the gaming machine comprises the game medium.

However, Raven et al fails to teach the gaming machine further comprising a game medium payout device for paying out at least a portion of the value as a physical game medium.

Dickinson et al teaches the gaming machine further comprising a game medium payout device / *validation terminal* for paying out at least a portion of the value as a physical game

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medium / *cash* (see col.2, lines 39-42).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a game medium payout device in the gaming machine so that physical game medium can be obtained upon completion of the game thereby increasing the enjoyment and excitement of the game.

Re claim 13: Raven et al teach the gaming system wherein the value recording device records a portions of the amount in the storage medium as the value (see col.11, lines 11-16).

However, Raven et al fails to teach the gaming system wherein the game medium payout device pays out a predetermined amount of the game medium.

Dickinson et al teaches the gaming system wherein the game medium payout device / *validation terminal* pays out a predetermined / *balance* amount of the game medium (see col.2, lines 33-41).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a game medium payout device that pays out a predetermined amount of the game medium in the gaming machine so that predetermined physical game medium can be obtained upon completion of the game thereby increasing the enjoyment and excitement of the game.

Re claim 14: Raven et al teach the gaming system comprising storage medium.

However, Raven et al fails to teach the gaming system wherein the value inputting device records an ID code on the storage medium when recording the value in the storage medium based

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on the physical game medium.

Dickinson et al teaches the gaming system wherein the value inputting device / *validation terminal* records an ID code / *number of the ID* on the storage medium when recording the value in the storage medium based on the physical game medium / *cash* (see col.2, lines 3-6).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include the recording of the ID code in the value inputting device in the gaming machine so that the value on the storage medium can be assigned properly to the right player thereby increasing the enjoyment of the game.

### ***Conclusion***

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Stockdale et al teaches high performance battery backed RAM interface; Takemoto et al discloses a slot machine, game play media lending machine and gaming house management system, and computer system in a gaming house; Yoseloff et al discloses a computerized gaming system, method and apparatus.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Adetokunbo O. Torimiro whose telephone number is (571) 270-1345. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8am - 4pm).

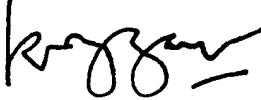
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jong-Suk (James) Lee can be reached on (571) 272-7044. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application

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AOT

  
**KIM NGUYEN**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**